

Bainbridge Island School District #303
Multicultural Advisory Council

MAC Council meeting

August 15, 2016

Suquamish Museum - 9-1

Present:

Voting Members

Amy Nakata, Chair/Community
Eileen Okada, Past Chair/Community
Katy Curtis, Co-Vice Chair/Community
Joyce Nishimura, Recorder/Community
Kathryn Keve, Community
Steven Soltar, Community
Marsha Cutting, Community
Kathryn McGowan, Parent
Tess Haddon, Parent
Jill Mullins-Cannon, Treasurer

Non-Voting School District Members

Sheryl Belt, District Administrator
Beth Riggs, Wilkes Elem School
Dana Ashton, Commodore Options School
Ryenn Deitz, BHS

Not Present:

Karen Vargas, Co-Vice Chair/Parent
Lynn Allee, Sakai Intermediate School
Denise Melton-Todd, Ordway
Millie Loughnane, co-Recorder
Sara Bourland, Woodward MS
Christina Wakefield, Parent
D'Arcy Clements - BHS
Christina Peato, BISD Indian Ed

Meeting called to order by Amy - 9:10 am

Attendees introduced themselves and gave us a brief background on their interest/work with multicultural education.

I. Kitsap County Social Justice Forum - Olympic College - tonight, August 15, at 7:00

Chief of Police and Sheriff - will be there with the community.

Bainbridge Island Chief will be there.

Question we would like our police to address: What is our Police Academy doing about training with regards to local in-service, mental health, and de-escalation?

NAACP does a good job training with superintendents, but not too much interest in audience.

II. Multicultural Education Budget - BISD -

- A. Funding is complex. MAC is the only school committee that has money of our own due to sales of *They Cast a Long Shadow* and *Snow Falling on Cedars*.
- Budget cuts in schools: Although the recession is over, the school budget is still not caught up.
 - District has a lot of high-priority needs with little funding : UBS, Social Studies review, Anti-bias training for staff
 - For a teacher to be paid, we have to define the work.
 - As a school system, raising kids for the next generation is a high priority.
- B. Can MAC get information on what moneys are used for teacher training, where the money is being spent?
- There are paid program going on now, but we don't see the real successes.
 - Can we have access to budget on where the trainings are being done - Yes

- C. Kathy McGowan will do a needs assessment study; get focal groups to see where are the gaps in terms of social science, social justice in the schools.
 - Film: On the Way to School - shows different elementary schools globally. Stimulates discussion and allows sharing of diverse experiences.
 - We would like to track all the trainings in the schools.
 - What are the outgrowths of these training
- D. Multicultural Education was big in 1980, then Standards took center stage.
 - Now we have opportunity to weave it into disciplinary areas through curriculum reviews.
 - Kindergarten should not be focused on preparing for first grade.
 - How do you contribute with your diversity?
- E. Coalition of the Whole Student - We need to be a part of this as well.

III. Kathy McGowan - Multicultural Education Resources

- Kathy has lots of resources and can consolidate them so teachers can have easy access.
- We need to discuss a process to vet and disseminate information for teachers
- Peggy Erikson of Kitsap Council on Human Rights is also a resource
- Sheryl Belt and Kathy will work together to make this happen
- This is powerful because it creates a feeling and tone that we as a community care about this topic.
- It can appear a bit arrogant if we push or pull topic into the curricula. We must meet people from where they are.
- We can be a valuable resource to teachers, and at least it's a start.

IV. Jill Mullins-Cannon - Institutional Racism -

Seattle Times has a video series that addresses this topic. Each of the 12 parts can be used as a stepping stone to a discussion at our meetings.

Middle and High School teachers could use it in classes to spur discussion and get feedback.

V. Discussion on 3 Recent Issues and MACs role

1. 2nd incident in a year of staff member's sexual misconduct with student
 - We have a professional code of conduct and incidences of grooming and minor boundary violations between staff & students must be addressed.
 - It's touchy - What's the difference between grooming and caring?
 - How do colleagues report without ratting or accusing, but contribute to "connecting the dots". You can say, "I don't know, but I want to consult" or "What if I knew a person..."
 - At elementary level, we teach children about appropriate body touch. Students choose if they want to be hugged. Personal space is respected. But social-emotional learning is not uniform across schools. It would be nice if everyone entering Sakai were on the same page.
2. Shooting scare - a staff member called in a false alarm
3. Anti-Semitic - several real incidents with different places, people
 - We have a school system and a larger community where we can't believe this is happening.
 - What kind of culture do we have?
 - Should MAC have some kind of community conversation
 - The Superintendent is meeting with various groups. We are organizing a system where everyone isn't thrown under the bus because of a few bad apples.
 - We are family, but when a bad seed goes bad, we have to address the problem. We all need to take responsibility. If you "See something, say something"
 - We need a better understanding of how you can say things without being a "rat".
 - Our staff is 99% exceptional, but some step over the line. We have to share without ratting on your colleague.
 - Anti-Semitic comments are due to stupidity, yet they are being used in the right context. Where did they get this?

A discussion followed on how MAC can respond to these incidences. Can we acknowledge what Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur means? What it means to be Jewish?

- We teach about the Holocaust as a historical piece, but don't always relate it to the current situation.
- Anti-Defamation League will be working with us - There is a learning component, a social-learning piece.
- They said there is an uptake on racism overall. We are in a political environment that gives permission to say anything. It's time for some good community conversation on how to raise your kids.

VI. Committees that MAC can be involved:

- Social Studies curriculum review - Grades 6-12. This year, focus on US History
- Health committee review - Social-Emotional Studies - Anti-bullying, personal safety, etc.
- We have had some ground work done connecting with community groups, and Sheryl wants MAC members involved. She will send out meeting dates and times.

VII. MAC Action plans

- We will launch the Frank Kitamoto Award at the MLK assembly in January and give it later in the year.
- Kathy will put together the teacher resources for Multicultural issues.
- We will work together with District this year to gather information and launch an action plan next year on issues that are troubling our community. Sheryl and Jill will plan this.

VIII. For the Good of the Order

- Historian's Huddle at the BIHM - Talk by Clarence Moriwaki on how the WWII Japanese American Exclusion relates to our current political climate.
Wed., Aug 24, 2016, 6:00 - 7:00 pm.
Pizza and beer provided by the Museum
All are welcome
- Council meetings will continue to be held at each school, but principals will be asked just one question.
- Executive Board meetings will be held at the District Office on Mondays at 4:30. Next meeting Sept. 12
- Council meetings will be held on Tuesdays at 4:30 - 6:30 pm. First meeting - Sept. 27 at Commodore
Specific dates and locations are posted on our MAC site

Meeting adjourned - 1:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Joyce Nishimura